

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

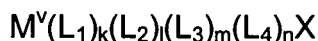
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (Original) A process for the preparation of a metal-organic compound, comprising at least one imine ligand, characterized in that an imine ligand according to formula 1 or the HA adduct thereof, wherein HA represents an acid, of which H represents its proton and A its conjugate base, is contacted with a metal-organic reagent of formula 2 in the presence of at least 1, respectively at least 2 equivalents of a base, with



as formula 1,

wherein Y is selected from a substituted carbon, or nitrogen atom and R represents a substituent, and with



as formula 2, wherein:

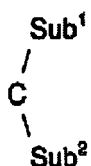
M represents a group 4 or group 5 metal ion

V represents the valency of the metal ion, being 3, 4 or 5

L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, L<sub>3</sub>, and L<sub>4</sub> represent a ligand or a group 17 halogen atom on M and may be equal or different, X represents a group 17 halogen atom,

k, l, m, n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 with k+l+m+n+1=V.

2. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein R represents a hydrogen atom and wherein Y is represents a substituent defined by formula 3:



(formula 3)

wherein each of Sub<sup>1</sup> and Sub<sup>2</sup> is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbyl radicals having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms; silyl radicals, (substituted)

amido radicals and (substituted) phosphido radicals, and wherein Sub<sup>1</sup> and Sub<sup>2</sup> may be linked with each other to form a ring system.

3. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the base is an amine or a phosphane.

4. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the base is a dialkylamine, a trialkylamine, a monoarylamine, diarylamine or a triarylamine.

5. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the base is triethylamine, pyridine, tripropylamine, tributylamine, 1,4-diaza-bicyclo[2.2. 2]octane, pyrrolidine or piperidine.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A process according to claim 1,~~ A process for the preparation of a metal-organic compound, comprising at least one imine ligand, characterized in that an imine ligand according to formula 1 or the HA adduct thereof, wherein HA represents an acid, of which H represents its proton and A its conjugate base, is contacted with a metal-organic reagent of formula 2 in the presence of at least 1, respectively at least 2 equivalents of a base, with

Y=N-R as formula 1,

wherein Y is selected from a substituted carbon, or nitrogen atom and R represents a substituent, and with

M<sup>V</sup>(L<sub>1</sub>)<sub>k</sub>(L<sub>2</sub>)<sub>l</sub>(L<sub>3</sub>)<sub>m</sub>(L<sub>4</sub>)<sub>n</sub>X as formula 2, wherein:

M represents a group 4 or group 5 metal ion

V represents the valency of the metal ion, being 3, 4 or 5

L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, L<sub>3</sub>, and L<sub>4</sub> represent a ligand or a group 17 halogen atom on M and may be equal or different, X represents a group 17 halogen atom,

k, l, m, n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 with k+l+m+n+1=V,

wherein the base is a carboxylate, a fluoride, a hydroxide, a cyanide, an amide, a carbonate of Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs, or an ammonium salt or a group 2 metal salt of Mg, Ca, or Ba thereof, an alkali metal (Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs) phosphate, or phosphate ester, or their alkoxide or phenoxides, thallium hydroxide, alkylammonium hydroxides or fluorides, or alkali metals, hydrides or carbonates of Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs or group 2 hydrides.

7. (Original) A process according to claim 6, wherein the alkali metal is chosen from Li, Na, or K.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A process according to claim 1,~~ A process for the preparation of a metal-organic compound, comprising at least one imine ligand, characterized in that an imine ligand according to formula 1 or the HA adduct thereof, wherein HA represents an acid, of which H represents its proton and A its conjugate base, is contacted with a metal-organic reagent of formula 2 in the presence of at least 1, respectively at least 2 equivalents of a base, with

Y=N-R as formula 1,

wherein Y is selected from a substituted carbon, or nitrogen atom and R represents a substituent, and with

M<sup>V</sup>(L<sub>1</sub>)<sub>k</sub>(L<sub>2</sub>)<sub>l</sub>(L<sub>3</sub>)<sub>m</sub>(L<sub>4</sub>)<sub>n</sub>X as formula 2, wherein:

M represents a group 4 or group 5 metal ion

V represents the valency of the metal ion, being 3, 4 or 5

L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, L<sub>3</sub>, and L<sub>4</sub> represent a ligand or a group 17 halogen atom on M and may be equal or different, X represents a group 17 halogen atom,

k, l, m, n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 with k+l+m+n+1=V,

wherein the base is a group 1, 2, 12,13 hydrocarbanion.

9. (Original) A process according to claim 8, wherein the base an organomagnesium- or an organolithium compound.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A process according to claim 1,~~ A process for the preparation of a metal-organic compound, comprising at least one imine ligand, characterized in that an imine ligand according to formula 1 or the HA adduct thereof, wherein HA represents an acid, of which H represents its proton and A its conjugate base, is contacted with a metal-organic reagent of formula 2 in the presence of at least 1, respectively at least 2 equivalents of a base, with

Y=N-R as formula 1,

wherein Y is selected from a substituted carbon, or nitrogen atom and R represents a substituent, and with

$M^V(L_1)_k(L_2)_l(L_3)_m(L_4)_nX$  as formula 2, wherein:

M represents a group 4 or group 5 metal ion

V represents the valency of the metal ion, being 3, 4 or 5

$L_1, L_2, L_3$ , and  $L_4$  represent a ligand or a group 17 halogen atom on M and may be equal or different, X represents a group 17 halogen atom,

k, l, m, n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 with k+l+m+n+1=V,

wherein said process is carried out in the presence of at least 3 respectively 4 equivalents of an organolithium- or an organomagnesium compound.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A process according to claim 1,~~ A process for the preparation of a metal-organic compound, comprising at least one imine ligand,

characterized in that an imine ligand according to formula 1 or the HA adduct thereof, wherein HA represents an acid, of which H represents its proton and A its conjugate base, is contacted with a metal-organic reagent of formula 2 in the presence of at least 1, respectively at least 2 equivalents of a base, with

Y=N-R as formula 1,

wherein Y is selected from a substituted carbon, or nitrogen atom and R represents a substituent, and with

$M^V(L_1)_k(L_2)_l(L_3)_m(L_4)_nX$  as formula 2, wherein:

M represents a group 4 or group 5 metal ion

V represents the valency of the metal ion, being 3, 4 or 5

$L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  $L_3$ , and  $L_4$  represent a ligand or a group 17 halogen atom on M and may be equal or different, X represents a group 17 halogen atom,

$k, l, m, n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$  with  $k+l+m+n+1=V$ ,

wherein the reaction is carried out in an aprotic solvent.

12. (Original) A process according to claim 11, wherein the solvent is the base.

13. (Previously Presented) Process for the preparation of a polyolefin by making a metal-organic compound according to the process of claim 1, wherein the base is an olefin polymerisation compatible base, which metal-organic compound is activated anywhere in, or before a polymerisation equipment.

14. (Original) Process according claim 13, wherein the metal-organic compound is formed used without purification.

15. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 13, wherein the metal-organic compound is formed in the polymerisation equipment.

16. (Original) Process according to claim 15, in the presence of between 5 and 10 equivalents of the imine or its HA adduct according to formula 1.